



Free Lions

THE ENGLAND FANZINE FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 169



FSA FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS'
ASSOCIATION

BULGARIA V ENGLAND
14TH OCTOBER 2019

BY FANS FOR FANS

STRENGTH COMES IN NUMBERS...
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WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF **FREE LIONS** 169

...the **free** England fanzine
produced and distributed by
the **Football Supporters'
Association (FSA)** as part of
our **Fans' Embassy** service

PAGE 3

Bulgaria v England

Vasil Levski Stadium, Sofia
Monday, 14th October 2019
Kick-off 21:45, local time
England will probably
play in **WHITE**



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AND welcome to Sofia, capital of Bulgaria. With any luck we'll have arrived here with our place at the Euro 2020 finals already secured after victory in Prague, and so we'll be able to relax and enjoy the experience – though obviously we still want to win the game!

This edition of Free Lions is brought to you – just like all the others – by the fans' embassy team from the newly launched Football Supporters' Association (FSA).

The fans' embassy is very much a "by fans, for fans" operation.

While we work in close partnership with the FA, the UK police and the British Embassy in the interests of England fans, we're an independent organisation and we're always ready to speak up on behalf of supporters, as well as providing the usual information, advice and practical support as we travel abroad.

The service we provide is always totally confidential, and it's also all free of charge to fans.

What's also free is membership of the FSA, and the more members we have, the louder and stronger our voice becomes. The FSA is a democratic organisation; our members decide our policy.

The FSA speaks up in the interests of football supporters on all the full range of issues that confront us, whether that's ticket prices, changes to kick-off times, standing, policing and stewarding problems, challenging discrimination or the general mismanagement of clubs and the game as a whole.

If you're not already a member, then the obvious question is: why not?

There's strength in numbers, add your weight to the cause – join the FSA today via the website, at www.thefsa.org.uk.

COVER STORY

Things are moving fast for Chelsea's promising young midfielder **Mason Mount**. After a successful season on loan at Derby County last season, he signed a new five-year contract at Stamford Bridge in July, played and scored for Chelsea in August, and won his first England senior cap in September.



IT WASN'T ME

The Free Lions fanzine is produced by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), the national membership-based organisation for fans. We have tried to ensure the accuracy of all the information provided in this fanzine, but can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience suffered by anyone

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THANK YOU

As ever, this fanzine has been a team effort. This edition was edited by Kevin Miles, and thanks are due to Phil Rowley; Clive Hetherington; Joe Hetherington; Harpreet Robertson; Tony Conniford; Adrian Roberts; and Peter Daykin. If there are any mistakes, it's still Liam's fault.

FSA FOOTBALL
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BULGARIA, NOT BRAZIL

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON



BRAZILIAN-BORN winger Wanderson, making his debut for Bulgaria, may have looked a threat at times, but it was his side's 'play out from the back' approach that was rightly ridiculed by Roy Keane and others during their 4-0 hammering by England at Wembley last month.

It cost them the first goal when keeper Plamen Iliev was at fault at a goal-kick, Raheem Sterling seizing on the ball to set up Harry Kane.

The change in the goal-kick rule – the ball no longer has to leave the 18-yard box before being played – is encouraging more teams to play short passes in and around the penalty area, and Bulgaria provided further proof that it is a risky business. Keane said of the blundering Bulgars: "You would think they were Brazil. It was madness."

Fellow ITV pundit Lee Dixon added: "Bulgaria were playing five – or

nine – at the back at times. But you have to move the ball quickly and England were gifted a goal. I don't know what the Bulgarians were doing.

"They played an awful ball at the back and it was good movement from Kane to peel off."

The present-day Bulgaria don't possess players like past greats Georgi Asparuhov and Nikola Kotkov, who were tragically killed together in a car crash in 1971, and Hristo Stoichkov and Yordan Letchkov, that talismanic pair among the Balkan 'Golden Generation'.

More recently, Dimitar Berbatov graced the Premier League with Tottenham, Man United and Fulham.

Remarkably, Bulgaria had never won a World Cup finals match until their unforgettable campaign at the 1994 tournament in the USA, where they beat Greece, Argentina and Mexico before Stoichkov and Letchkov scored in the 2-1 quarter-final win over then-reigning champions Germany in the Giants Stadium in New Jersey.

The journey ended with defeat to Italy at the same venue and in an identical result, and Bulgaria ran out of steam in a 4-0 pasting by Sweden in the third and fourth place play-off.

Although the Bulgaria of 2019 are a pale shadow of those who once bestrode the world stage, a strong link with the glory days has been maintained with head coach Krasimir Balakov, a member of the side that famously beat the Germans.

The one-time attacking midfielder was only appointed in May after Petar Hubchev, another of the Class

>> CLIVE'S VERDICT

Bulgaria 0, England 3

England have never lost to Bulgaria and don't expect that to change this time. The Three Lions have won seven of the 11 encounters between the countries, extending back to 1962. Such has been England's dominance that they have scored

11 goals without reply in the last three meetings, the last visit here, in September 2011, ending in a 3-0 victory through Gary Cahill's opener and a Wayne Rooney brace. Last month's 4-0 Wembley win emphasised the gulf in quality.

>> BULGARIA – THE KEY THREE by Joe Hetherington



WANDERSON

One of a number of Brazilian-born players who have represented eastern

European countries

in recent times. The attacking midfielder received his first call-up this year at the age of 31, and he posed a threat against England last month during his debut. After spending several seasons playing in the lower leagues of his homeland, Wanderson transferred in 2014 to his current club, Ludogorets Razgrad. He made headlines for all the wrong reasons this year when he celebrated scoring what he believed to be a winning goal by kissing his wife – only to find that the goal had been disallowed.



IVELIN POPOV

Both the most experienced and controversial figure in the squad, Popov is

undoubtedly a gifted player, though at the same time a mercurial talent. The 31-year-old is contracted to Rostov of Russia having spent the majority of his career in the country. In September 2010, the attacker was reprimanded over his part in a heavy drinking session days before his nation lost 4-0 to England at Wembley, and he was later banned for life by the Bulgarian FA for another off-field incident, only to return in 2015. Popov has scored past Italy and Holland since making his debut for Bulgaria.



GEORGI MILANOV

A lively midfielder, Milanov is another with the capability to worry the England defence.

Now 27, Milanov commanded a fee of around £3million when he moved to CSKA Moscow in 2013, featuring against Spurs in the Europa League during his spell there, but he now plays in the Hungarian top flight with Fehervar. One of his biggest contributions to date for Bulgaria is his goal against Italy during a World Cup qualification match which led to 2-2 draw in 2012. Milanov has a twin brother, Iliya, who has also played for Bulgaria. Can play wide or through the middle.

of '94, departed on the back of 1-1 draws at home to Montenegro and away to Kosovo in Bulgaria's opening two Euro 2020 qualifiers.

They needed a late Todor Nedelev penalty to salvage a point against Montenegro and led through defender Vasil Bozhikov in Kosovo. But it has been a tough introduction for Balakov.

Striker Ismail Isa gave him a dream start with a third-minute goal against the Czech Republic in Prague before a Patrik Schick double secured a 2-1 success for the hosts.

That was followed by a 3-2 home defeat to Kosovo in which Ivelin Popov countered Milot Rashica's early goal for the visitors and Kristian Dimitrov put Bulgaria ahead. Then Vedat Muriqi and a last-gasp strike by Ebba Rashani sickened Balakov's men.

A Kane hat-trick – including two penalties – and Sterling did the damage at Wembley, and Bulgaria suffered a 3-1 friendly defeat to the Republic of Ireland three days later in Dublin, where Popov scored a penalty.

But they gave England's suspect defence and midfield one or two

anxious moments and former Three Lions and Arsenal right-back Dixon said: "There was a long ball, the back four were fine, Michael Keane went with his man, but the midfielders – Declan Rice and Jordan Henderson – gambled that it was going into midfield.

"They were caught out and, in the end, when the ball came into the box, they got away with it. There was a second chance in the first half which was virtually carbon-copy. They were two really stark chances and Bulgaria should have done better because we were opened up a couple of times."



SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS BULGARIA MUSIC QUIZ

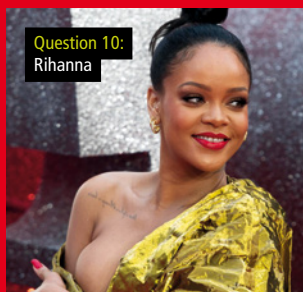
ANSWERS
ON PAGE
13

GREAT Uncle Bulgaria was a popular character in the kids' TV programme The Wombles, which is all link that Scouse Phil needs to produce a music quiz in which each question, or answer, relates to...

...television.



Question 6:
Ayda Field



Question 10:
Rihanna

1 The fantastic line, 'We stayed in by the telly, although the room was smelly' appears in the lyrics of which hit single by Deptford band Squeeze?

2 Which ITV talent show did Girls Aloud win in 2002?

3 'The Sun Always Shines On TV' was a 1985 Number One hit for which Norwegian band?

4 The Rembrandts' 1995 hit, 'I'll Be There For You', is the theme tune for which well know American TV sitcom?

5 Ena Sharples, Stanley Ogden and Albert Tatlock are all mentioned in the song 'TV Stars' by Dunfermline band The Skids, but in which long-running television programme did all of these characters appear?

6 Ayda Field is one of the judges on TV's X Factor, but which singer is she married to?

7 The band Television were formed in New York in the 70s, but which musical genre were they widely credited with inspiring in this country?

8 Singer Miley Cyrus became a TV star in 2006 after starring as character Miley Stewart in which long-running Disney series?

9 What did US band Red Hot Chili Peppers tell us to do with the television in the title of their 2002 song?

10 'Yeah, you saw me on a television' are lyrics from the Rihanna 2012 hit 'Half Of Me', which was co-written by which female singer-songwriter, born in the wonderful and amazing city of Sunderland in 1987?

FSA FANS' EMBASSY

As usual, the FSA's fans' embassy service will be on hand in Sofia to offer advice, information and assistance to England fans.

At the time of going to press, we still had not received confirmation from the authorities locally about where exactly we would be located, but we are hoping to be

based somewhere along the long pedestrianised street in the centre of town called **Bulevard Vitosha**.

We will be operating on the afternoon of Sunday 13th October, and then on match day (Monday 14th October) from 10:00 through to 17:00. We will of course be contactable around the clock via the helpline on +44 7956 121314.



WELCOME TO SOFIA

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE

WELCOME to Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria and venue for our Euro 2020 qualifier – though if everything has gone according to plan in Prague, we should already have secured qualification for the finals even before we arrive here.

Nonetheless, here we are again, some eight years after our last visit when two goals from Wayne Rooney followed Gary Cahill's opener to give us a comfortable 0-3 victory. The stadium hasn't changed much since then, but there's been a bit of development of the city itself.

Sofia is a modestly-sized capital city with a population of around 1.2million people, and it's possible to get around the compact centre on foot to see the sights. The jewel in the crown is the iconic **Alexander Nevski Cathedral**, with its recently re-gilded domes covered in gold leaf.



Alexander Nevski Cathedral

The city lies in the west of the country, surrounded by mountains on all sides, and unusually for a European capital city, it doesn't have a significantly sized river flowing through it.

The currency in Bulgaria is the Lev, which is currently valued at approximately two Lev to the pound. You will sometimes see

prices quoted in Euros, but that is generally just as a guide for tourists, and transactions are always in local currency.

Many shops and restaurants will now accept credit and debit card payments, but there are still a lot that don't, so be prepared to pay in cash, if that doesn't feel impossibly retro in these modern times.

TICKET COLLECTION

IT'S 100% collection as usual for ESTC members in Sofia, which means that every individual must collect their own ticket in person. Remember to take up-to-date photo ID, and it will speed up the process if you know the name of the member who purchased the tickets for your group.

The ticket collection point in Sofia is in the grandiose setting of the **National Palace of Culture**,

on **Bulevard Bulgaria** – more specifically, as it's a very big building, it's in Hall 4.

The nearest Metro station is '**National Palace of Culture**' on Metro line 2, the blue line; given the compactness of the city centre however, it's within easy walking distance of most places you're likely to find yourself beforehand. It's also within walking distance, and indeed within sight of, the stadium.

Tickets will be available for collection between 15:00 and 18:00 on Sunday, 13th October, and between 10:00 and 21:00 on match day, Monday 14th October.

Please note that as the ticket collection point is relatively close to the stadium (it's maybe a 20-minute walk), there will be no further ticket collection facility at the stadium, either on match day or before.



WELCOME TO SOFIA

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE



THE STADIUM

THE Vasil Levski National Stadium is Bulgaria's largest stadium in current use and is located near the centre of Sofia, in the city's oldest park, the Borisovata Gradina.

Designated as a four-star venue by UEFA and FIFA, it has a seated capacity of over 43,000. A multi-purpose venue (which is the usual euphemism for one where the pitch is surrounded by a running track, though in this case there's a bit more to it, as it also has 14 sports halls for judo, basketball, boxing, fencing and table tennis), it was originally opened in 1953, with the first international game played here being a World Cup qualifier against Czechoslovakia (which Bulgaria lost 1-2).

The stadium underwent an almost total rebuild in the late 1990s, culminating in it being re-opened in September 2002. The first international game in the rebuilt stadium was Bulgaria v Croatia,

played on October 12th 2002 (which Bulgaria won 2-0).

The stadium is named after Vasil Levski, a 19th century Bulgarian revolutionary and national hero (who was voted, in a 2007 nationwide television poll, the "all-time greatest Bulgarian").

It is not however home to club side Levski Sofia, despite the fact that they too are named after the same bloke: they play their league matches at the 29,200-capacity **Georgi Asparuhov** stadium, although they have been known to play their European matches in the national stadium.

Over 3,400 official England tickets have been sold for this game, and the England sector has been allocated to the corner at the north of the ground. This sector of the ground – like most of the stadium – is uncovered, so keep an eye on the weather forecasts and come appropriately equipped.

GETTING THERE

THE stadium is located quite centrally in Sofia, less than half an hour's walk from anywhere in the city centre, so for the vast majority of us, getting to the game will simply be a question of walking in the right direction – and the floodlights should be a big help in getting oriented. The map in the centre pages will hopefully come in handy too.

If you're coming from a lot further afield, then the nearest Metro station to the ground, perhaps unsurprisingly, is the one called '**Vasil Levski Stadium**', which is on both of the two lines of the Sofia Metro system. Other public transport options include the city's trams and buses. Tram lines 10, 12 and 18 all stop nearby, as do buses 9, 72, 75 and 76.

Traffic congestion around the ground builds up considerably before the game, so bear that in mind if you opt for a taxi, and allow plenty of time.

GROUND RULES

THE stadium will open at 19:45, two hours before kick-off. The official England sector is located at the north corner of the ground, where it will be accessed via a segregated entrance.

The usual regime of searches and ticket checks will take place on the approach to the ground.

The now commonplace stipulation of a maximum bag size equivalent to an A4 piece of paper will be in operation; if at all possible, don't bring bags at all. There are no facilities to store larger bags.

Ticket holders may also be required to show some photo ID on entry to the ground, ID which matches the name on the ticket, so remember to take something suitable with you.



There will be no alcohol on sale at the stadium, and local laws forbid the sale of alcohol within a 500-metre radius of the stadium before the game.

The authorities locally also tell us that they operate a policy of not admitting to the ground fans that they perceive to be drunk. While we are aware that this is sometimes an empty threat, we have witnessed this rule

being enforced, with fans being breathalysed and turned away,

Bulgarian law is also quite strict on children attending matches: juniors aren't banned, but there is a requirement that a declaration form confirming responsibility for a child is completed and presented to stadium staff on request. It's best to have one prepared, as it's possible you'll be turned back from the turnstile and sent to the ticket office to complete one, which could of course mean missing kick-off.

Any hold-back of England fans at the end of the game will be communicated via loudspeaker announcements in English.

You may notice empty sectors of the ground: this is as a consequence of a UEFA punishment of a partial stadium closure due to previous incidents of racism.

WELCOME TO SOFIA

YOUR FREE LIONS GUIDE



» GETTING AROUND

THE easiest suggestion here is just to walk – Sofia really isn't huge, and most of the places you're likely to want to visit are within comfortable walking distance of each other.

For those of you who can't or prefer not to walk, the public transport system of the underground, trams and buses runs from 05:00 to 23:00 every day.

Underground tickets cost 1.6 Lev, and can be bought from machines at the entrance to stations. Daily tickets are also available as well as packs of ten individual journey tickets.

Taxis in Sofia can be hailed on the street – a green light means it's available – but beware of rip-offs. Make sure the meter is on when you start your journey – the initial price on it should be no more than 1 Lev.

Taxis have to display their rates for both daytime and night time – an average fare per kilometre should be around 0.8 Lev by day, 0.9 Lev by night (22:00 – 06:00).



ⓘ THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Alexander Nevski Cathedral



THE compact city centre allows you to see most of Sofia's sights on foot: the famous Cathedral of Saint Aleksandar Nevski is next to the National Academy of Arts, which in turn is next door to the National Assembly, which is five minutes' walk from the Eagle Bridge – and of course we're all going to see the National Palace of Culture when we pick our tickets up.

A fairly new attraction, albeit a bit off the beaten track, is the Museum of Socialist Art, which features a large outdoor sculpture park.

It's on **Ul. Lachezar Stanev**; take the Metro to **Joliot Curie** or **G.M. Dimitrov** stations, and walk down the hill for 3-400 metres. It's closed on Mondays though.

Last time we were here, some England fans reported back to us that one attraction we'd suggested had been surprisingly good, and excellent value for money: the **Free Sofia Walking Tour**.

It's exactly what its name implies – a free two-hour walking tour, taking in twenty of the city's sights, with an English-speaking guide. There are no reservations required, just turn up to the starting point at the **Palace of Justice/Sofia Court House** (at the top of **Bul. Vitosha**) in good time for one of the trips, which leave at 10:00, 11:00, 14:00 and 16:00 every day.



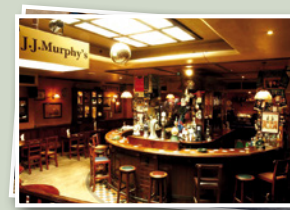
🍴 EATING & DRINKING

SOFIA has a lot of small bars, and as good a place as any to start looking for them would be along the long pedestrianised street that runs north to south through the city centre, **Bulevard Vitosha**. Although the weather is starting to get cooler in October, there should still be a good number of bars with their tables and chairs set up outside.



At the top end of the street (just around the corner, on **Ul. Alabin** in fact) is **McCarthy's Irish Pub**; a couple of blocks further down, and out to the right on **Ul. Karnigradska**, is **JJ Murphy's**; those Irish pubs aside, there are plenty of other bars and cafes in that area.

It doesn't take long to explore most of the city centre and check out



other bars on offer. Lovers of craft beers might also want to check out 'Beera' on **Bulevard Vitosha** – it's not a bar, more an off-licence, but it has an impressive range of bottled craft beers available, and incidentally, it's not illegal to drink them outside, in public.

If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, you could always head further south, out of the city centre to 'Student Town', where there are a number of cheap bars and restaurants popular with expats and of course students.

There are a wide variety of restaurants and cafes to eat in,

from local Bulgarian cuisine – lots of pork and pizza – through to steak houses, Mediterranean food and even Asian.

A couple of things to be aware of: food tends to be served warm, rather than hot, and there's no guarantee what order your dishes will come in either, with many places bringing it as it's ready rather than starter first.

It's worth checking your bill to make sure no unordered items have "accidentally" found their way onto it, and look too to see if a service charge has been added – if not, then 10% is the going rate for tips.

Quiz Answers

- Music Quiz (Page 6)
1. 'Up The Junction' 2. Pop Stars: The Rivals 3. A-Ha
 4. Friends 5. Coronation Street 6. Robbie Williams
 7. Punk 8. Hannah Montana 9. Throw It Away
 - (Throw Away Your Television) 10. Emeli Sande

- Football Quiz (Page 16)
1. Spurs 2. Brussels 3. Salford City 4. Ludogorets
 - Razgrad 5. The Yeovil Town ball boys 6. Bury 7. Iceland, 2-1 in the 1st knockout stage 8. Huddersfield
 - Town 9. Stockley Park 10. Joleon Lescott



GOLD STANDARD FROM STERLING

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON



AN WRIGHT reckons the reason Raheem Sterling has been in unstoppable form for England is that Gareth Southgate's side are attempting to play the Manchester City way.

Ahead of the visit to the Czech Republic, Sterling had racked up eight goals in as many games for his country. Not bad for a player who scored only two in his first 45 England appearances.

And Arsenal striking legend Wright, who netted nine goals in winning his 33 senior England caps, believes City forward Sterling is benefitting from the Three Lions adopting a similar style to Pep Guardiola's Premier League champions.

Sterling struck in the 4-0 Wembley win over Bulgaria last month and opened the scoring in the frenetic 5-3 victory against Kosovo three

days later at Southampton's St Mary's Stadium.

Wright said: "He gets himself into holes like he does for City and he wants to threaten. Once he's on the ball, he's taking people on. That's what gets the fans off their seats.

"He played fantastically against Bulgaria. What he did with his goal was what he's done for City in the last two seasons. He ended up right in the middle of the goal and got himself in front of the defender to get on the end of the ball. It was a Man. City run.

"The way he plays for City, and the way England are trying to play, suits him and he can score the same kind of goals."

Co-ITV pundit Roy Keane said that Manchester United's Marcus Rashford, who won a penalty against Bulgaria, should be "picking up tips" from Sterling.

The ex-United skipper said: "Sterling is affecting games. Sometimes, the best example for any player is one of your teammates, and Rashford can learn so much from Sterling, whether it be training with him or watching him at close quarters.

"It's a great lesson and hopefully he's picking up tips, which we did see in the second half against Bulgaria."

And Wright said of Rashford, who made way for two-goal Jadon

Sancho in the starting line-up against Kosovo: "I just expect a lot more from him because I know what he is capable of and he does himself.

"In the first half against Bulgaria, I said he needed to step up and in the second half he did what we know he can do.

"You get the ball with space to run into and you commit people. In the second half, he came out and he was very positive and that's what you want to see from him. That made a massive difference in the game."

But it wasn't all good news after Bulgaria's visit. The arrest, and subsequent release without charge, of a Bulgaria fan on suspicion of making racist comments – allegedly aimed at Sterling – was troubling.

And England manager Southgate received criticism from the president of the Bulgarian Football Union for flagging up the possibility of racism from home supporters here in Sofia.

Bewigged Borislav 'Bobby' Mihaylov, the ex-Bulgaria goalkeeper better remembered for his 'syrup' than his spell with Reading, slammed Southgate for what he branded "groundless, inappropriate and unnecessary" remarks in which the England boss said his players would "prepare" for how to respond to potential racism. It has been suggested they could walk off the pitch.

Mihaylov, in a letter to UEFA and the Football Association, said: "We have not received any official information regarding discriminatory language used by a Bulgarian supporter at Wembley.

"Even if this were the case, however, we believe that generalisations and the creation of needless tension by official members of the English team is absolutely unacceptable and in contradiction with the spirit of mutual respect and fair play, the core values of both UEFA and the BFU."

But the Vasil Levski Stadium is partly shut down for this game, and the visit of the Czech Republic next month, as punishment for the racist chants of Bulgaria fans during the Euro qualifiers against the Czechs and Kosovo in June.

A section of 5,000 of the 46,340 seats are blocked off this time, and 3,000 will be out of operation for the Czechs' arrival.

Sadly, England are no strangers to abuse from Bulgaria fans. The BFU were hit with a £34,230 fine by UEFA for "discriminatory behaviour" on our last visit eight years ago for a Euro 2012 qualifier.

Immediately after England's 3-0 win, Bulgaria's then-coach – West Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning captain Lothar Matthaus – issued an apology for the conduct of some among the home support.

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?

CONTACT CLIVE VIA FREELIONS@THEFSA.ORG.UK

England have already suffered racist abuse during the current qualifying campaign, with Montenegro being forced to play a home match behind closed doors after the Three Lions were targeted in Podgorica in March.

And England's Nations League game in Croatia in October last year was played behind closed doors after a swastika was scorched into the pitch at Split's Poljud Stadium for a Euro 2016 qualifier with Italy.

Hopefully, all the attention here will be on football. Bulgaria may have ultimately been outclassed first time around in this campaign, but Roy Keane was far from impressed with England's performance in the opening half.

He said: "In the first half, players were too slow, took too many touches, there was not good enough movement and not great body language.

"We spoke before the game about England's pace and movement and we didn't see any of it – bar Sterling, he was the only one playing with any sort of tempo. Gareth is quite a placid guy, but he would have been fuming watching that.

"There was a bad attitude, it was players being lazy. I've always said, when the ball gets goalside of you, run back like your life depends on it. Players were strolling through

it, the attitude from some of the players – shocking."

But Keane also struck an upbeat note, adding: "The attitude was much better in the second half. I think they knew they were sloppy in the first half but once they got that second goal, it was game over. It was just a case of how many they would score.

"You would love to be in Gareth's position with the options he has, with players coming through, lots of quality, but there's still that question mark defensively, especially when you're trying to get to the final of tournaments.

"He's got so many high-class problems, who he's going to pick and getting the chemistry right, but he's on the right track, obviously."



BULGARIA SQUAD WORDSEARCH



No prizes, just free entertainment: we've hidden the surnames of the Bulgaria squad for this game in the Wordsearch grid. If you like you can amuse yourself by trying to find them. It makes no difference to us if you don't bother, but you might find knowing what clubs they play for helpful...

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| Nikolay | MIHAYLOV | Levski |
| Plamen | ILIEV | Ludogorets |
| Hristo | IVANOV | Etar |
| Strahil | POPOV | Kasimpasa |
| Vasil | BOZHIKOV | Slovan Bratislava |
| Georgi | PASHOV | Ararat-Armenia |
| Kamen | HADZHIEV | Akademia Puskas |
| Kristian | DIMITROV | Botev Plovdiv |
| Anton | NEDYALKOV | Ludogorets |
| Ivan | GORANOV | Levski |
| Petar | ZANEV | CSKA-Sofia |
| Ivelin | POPOV | Rostov |
| Kiril | DESPODOV | Sturm Graz |
| Georgi | KOSTADINOV | Arsenal Tula |
| Simeon | SLAVCHEV | Qarabag |
| Georgi | SARMOV | Chemnitz |
| Bozhidar | KRAEV | Gil Vicente |
| Kristiyan | MALINOV | CSKA-Sofia |
| | MARCELINHO | Ludogorets |
| | WANDERSON | Ludogorets |
| Galin | IVANOV | Slavia |
| Vasil | PANAYOTOV | Cherno more |
| Ismail | ISA | Cherno more |
| Bircent | KARAGAREN | Lokomotiv Plovdiv |

N U F C K R A E V O H S A P K
 E B H Q A L A N S H E A R E R
 D K A R A G A R E N O V O N A
 Y I D S I R B D E S P O D O V
 A H Z B I O V E H C V A L S O
 L S H L J O W A N D E R S O N
 K P I G N O B S K I T E X H I
 O E E A C G O J V M E F Q N D
 V S V E N A Z O O I K F V I A
 O I O P W Q H E P T O O N L T
 N M N O T N I L O R U D Z E S
 A Q I E X I K W P O P O V C O
 R I L W A V O N A V I S A R K
 O S A R M O V O T O Y A N A P
 G F M I H A Y L O V D O S M B

SCOUSE PHIL'S

FREE LIONS FOOTBALL QUIZ

(Answers on page 13)

1 Which team has England cricket hero Ben Stokes recently said he supports, having been sent a shirt by them with his name on?

2 Wembley will now host seven games during the Euro 2020 Finals after which city was stripped off its right to host games?

3 Moor Lane is the home ground of which team who this season are competing in the Football League for the first time?

4 Who are the current champions of the Bulgarian

top flight, having won the league eight years in a row?

5 In Yeovil v Bromley on 28th September, who were sent off for time-wasting by the referee?

6 The 2019 FA Cup final equalled the highest score in the final, since which team, sadly much in the news recently, beat Derby 6-0 in the 1903 final?

7 Which team, playing in their first finals, knocked England out of the 2016 Euro Finals in France?

8 At the start of the season, which team were fined £50,000 by the FA for wearing a Paddy Power branded kit that broke advertising regulations?

9 VAR has been introduced into the Premier League this season, but where in West London is the VAR control room situated?

10 I was born in Birmingham in 1982 and played for various teams including Wolves, Everton and Manchester City, winning 26 England caps between 2007 and 2013. Who am I?